

CLAIMS

1. A method for producing a free-flowing granular material, characterized in that pumice is screened to
5 obtain pumice having a size of greater than 500 microns and less than or equal to 15 mm, the pumice is placed in the presence of water with stirring, the pumice is separated from the water and dried to obtain dried pumice, one part by weight of sludge issuing from the
10 biological treatment of municipal or industrial wastewater is mixed with 0.5 to 0.9 part by weight of dried pumice until granules are obtained.
2. The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that 5 to 12% by weight of clay with respect to the
15 total mixture is added while mixing.
3. The method as claimed in either of claims 1 and 2, characterized in that up to 1% by weight of water retainer is added while mixing.
4. The method as claimed in claim 1, 2 or 3,
20 characterized in that the pumice is placed in the presence of water by spraying water jets through a screen on which the pumice is deposited.
5. A granular material, freely flowing, and of which the largest dimension is between 0.5 and 15 mm,
25 characterized in that it satisfies the following elemental analysis:
H₂O: 45 to 60% by weight,
Si expressed as SiO₂: 22 to 25% by weight,
Al expressed as Al₂O₃: 6 to 9% by weight,
30 C: 4 to 5% by weight;
Organic matter (loss on ignition): 1 to 3% by weight.
6. The use of the material as claimed in claim 5, as a culture substrate.